

**The Congregation at Prayer**  
A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
*Fourth Sunday in Advent*  
December 18<sup>th</sup> – December 24<sup>th</sup>

***The Order of Meditation and Prayer***

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

**Theme:** We Await Christ's Return in Glory

***Invocation***

**In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

***Apostles' Creed***

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and ☩ the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Verse: John 16:13***

[Jesus said] "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth."

**Catechism:**

***“The Second Article - Redemption”***

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

***What does this mean?***

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

***Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Advent:***

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn***

**"Let All Together Praise Our God"**

**#389 Stanzas 1 & 2**

Let all together praise our God  
    Before His glorious throne;  
Today He opens heav'n again  
    To give us His own Son,  
To give us His own Son.

He leaves His heavenly Father's throne,  
    Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone,  
    Lies in a humble stall,  
Lies in a humble stall.

*Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

*Morning Prayer*

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

*Evening Prayer*

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

“But Christ was given so that for His sake we might receive the gift of the forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit, to bring forth in us eternal righteousness and a new and eternal life. Therefore we cannot correctly keep the law unless by faith we have received the Holy Spirit.”

*Apology of the Augsburg Confession IV Justification*

### ***Readings for the Week***

<b>Day</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Monday	Matthew 1:19-25 Jesus' Birth Foretold
Tuesday	Luke 2:1-7 Jesus Is Born in Bethlehem
Wednesday	Luke 2:8-14 The Angel Appears to the Shepherds
Thursday	Luke 2:15-20 The Shepherds Go to Bethlehem
Friday	John 1:1-14 The Word Becomes Flesh
Saturday	Catch Up

### **In Our Prayers this Week:**

Judy Braun, Irene Daubendiek, Monetta Meyer, Berniece Pfingsten, David Sabatka (infant son of Jennifer Von Minden)

Continuing Prayers: Lodeen Clausen, Dawn Crosier, Leonard Esch, June Martin

Missing: Ann Kelley

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***Looking forward to The Nativity of Our Lord***

***December 25, 2016***

***Hymns:*** 375, 384, 379, 380, 387, 383

***Lessons:*** Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38; Titus 3:4-7; John 1:1-14

**Hymn of the Week**

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

#384